

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 3, 2004 has been carefully considered. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner consider the following remarks and then pass the application to allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2-5, 10-20 and 23, 24, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Evans et al (WO 01/44918 A1). Applicant respectfully submits that Evans does not disclose all of the elements as described in independent claims 1, 18 and 26. Specifically, Evans does not teach or suggest that the notification object is collapsible.

As understood, Evans discloses a system and method for automatically displaying error information at appropriate times without requiring any additional user input or interfering with the user's ability to further interact with the user interface. Error information associated with a user input field is displayed at the appropriate time within the graphical user interface. Evans discloses that user input activities are monitored and that the error information is halted upon subsequent user input. Furthermore the error information may be halted after a prescribed period of time has elapsed. (Evans, page 3, lines 1-3).

Furthermore, Evans discloses that the error balloon containing the error information is deactivated when the user begins to reenter the information. (Evans, page 7, lines 22-24). The deactivation of the error balloon allows the user to reenter the correct information into the user input field. Accordingly, the user does not need to acknowledge or shut down the error balloon containing the error information.

Applicant respectfully submits that Evans does not teach or suggest that the error balloon is collapsible as described by independent claims 1, 18 and 26.

Specifically, the notification object described by independent claims 1, 18 and 26 is collapsible into a miniaturized version. The notification object may be collapsed by way of a user command or action. In this manner, the user may reduce the size of the notification object in order to view more information contained within the window. The notification object can be restored to its original size and position by the user. For a more detailed description of how the notification object is collapsed see paragraph 26 of the present application.

The Evans reference does not teach or suggest collapsing the notification object into a miniaturized version. As previously discussed, Evans discloses deactivating the notification object, but does not teach miniaturizing the notification object. As such, Evans does not anticipate independent claims 1, 18 and 26 of the present application.

In the Office Action, claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Evans and Webb (Pub. No. US 2003/0011639). Furthermore, claims 6, 21, 22 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Evans and Wishoff (Pub. No. US 2002/0051017). However, as previously discussed, Evans does not disclose the claim elements as suggested by the rejection such that claims 2, 6, 21, 22, and 25 should be in condition for allowance.

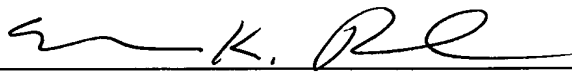
In view of the preceding discussion, Applicant respectfully urges that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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